

## Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 FBO-02 CPR-01 A-01 SCS-03

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /042 W

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O R 101206Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3070

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1581

USIA FOR IAA; IBS

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: VOA EMPLOYEE ARRESTED AT USIS

1. AT 10:40 AM MONDAY FEBRUARY 10, ETHIOPIAN SECURITY POLICE ARRESTED VOA CONTRACT EMPLOYEE KAHSU FESSAHAI ON USIS PREMISES.
  2. AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST, KAHSU WAS WITH VOA CORRESPONDENT DAVID WILLIAMS INSIDE VOA STUDIO ON FIFTH FLOOR OF BUILDING. WHEN WILLIAMS ASKED FOUR POLICEMEN WHAT WAS HAPPENING HE WAS TOLD "IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS."
  3. THIS IS SECOND TIME KAHSU HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY SECURITY POLICE AND SECOND TIME USIS PREMISES HAVE BEEN VIOLATED BY SECURITY MEN (REF ADDIS 14419 OF 12/4/74).
  4. ALTHOUGH NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR KAHSU'S ARREST, WE FEEL IT IS RELATED TO HIS RECENT TRIP TO ASMARA. KAHSU LEFT FOR ASMARA ON JANUARY 23 TO SEE HIS FAMILY AND RETURNED TO ADDIS YESTERDAY (SUNDAY, FEB. 9). ORIGINALLY, KAHSU WAS SCHEDULED TO DEPART ASMARA ON SATURDAY, FEB. 1, BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO WHEN AIRPORT WAS CLOSED DUE TO OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING IN ERITREA.
  5. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT EMBASSY ASKED DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE CONCERNING INVIOALABILITY OF USIS PREMISES (ADDIS ABABA 14569) AND
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DEPARTMENT STATED (STATE 283443) THAT ACCORDING TO VIENNA CON-

VENTION "USIS BUILDING, INCLUDING LIBRARY ARE INTEGRAL PART OF DIPLOMATIC PREMISES." EMBASSY IS CONSEQUENTLY DELIVERING SECOND NOT TO MOFA PROTESTING INVIOABILITY OF EMBASSY PREMISES, INCLUDING USIS.

6. ACCORDING TO GUARD STATIONED AT ENTRANCE USIS BUILDING, FOUR SECURITY OFFICERS SUBMITTED TO SEARCH PRIOR TO ENTERING PREMISES (ALL WERE CARRYING WEAPONS), PRODUCED IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND SAID THEY WANTED TO TALK TO DIRECTOR. INSTEAD, THEY WENT IMMEDIATELY TO FIFTH FLOOR AND ARRESTED KAHSU. THIS AGAIN LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT FSL IS TIPPING OFF POLICE ON ALL ACTIONS AND MOVEMENTS OF OUR ERITREAN EMPLOYEES.

7. CULTURAL ASSISTANT MICHAEL EGZIABHER, WHO WAS ARRESTED ON DEC. 4 ALONG WITH KAHSU AND ANOTHER ERITREAN FSL, IS STILL INCARCERATED AND, ACCORDING TO FORMER'S WIFE, NO FORMAL CHARGES HAVE BEEN LODGED AGAINST HIM.

8. RECOMMEND THAT VOA NOT RPT NOT CARRY ANYTHING ON KAHSU STORY INCLUDING LAST GRAPH OF WILLIAMS CORRESPONDENT REPORT. ADVISE. LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**To:** USIA  
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